

Throughout the entire ninth month of the Islamic calendar year, Muslims demonstrate their devotion to God by fasting from sunrise until sunset. The holy month of Ramadan is also an important time for Muslim families and communities as they join together in expression of their devotion.

Many Muslims take the month of September to seek physical and spiritual renewal. In fact, more than 25,000 Muslims in my Congressional District observe this celebration to mark their steadfast commitments to faith, peace, family and heritage.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the celebration of the month of Ramadan and wishing Muslims a peaceful and blessed holiday.

TAIWAN

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Taiwan's decision to apply for admittance to the United Nations. I urge the Administration and the Secretary General to reconsider their positions and accept Taiwan, a sovereign and democratically elected government, as a peer in the international community.

For over 50 years, Taiwan has been a flourishing, independent and sovereign government in the developing world and Southeast Asia. Taiwan has developed a world-class democracy, serving as a model for countries in the region. The people of Taiwan inspire others in Southeast Asia and around the world who desire freedom and prosperity. America should stand with our friends who engage in peaceful democracy and Taiwan deserves our support.

Taiwan has all the qualifications for a sovereign state as laid out in the "Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States." Taiwan has a permanent population, a recognized and defined territory, government, and the capacity to enter relations with other states, including 23 members of the UN. Under Article 4 of the UN Charter, Taiwan clearly has the right to apply for membership. The Secretary General should allow Taiwan to present its case to the General Assembly and allow a vote to proceed.

Taiwan plays an important role in the international community because of its democratic and economic success. Other nations are benefiting from Taiwan's access to markets and technology. It defies logic and the principle of fairness that the Taiwanese people and government are not given the same voice as everyone else throughout the world.

In petitioning the UN for membership under the name Taiwan, President Chen Shui-bian is dutifully responding to the sentiments of his people, of which three-quarters support applying for UN membership under the name of Taiwan. This is a responsible decision by the government and not a new initiative. The government in Taipei has been petitioning for UN membership since 1993.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I urge this body to stand with our friends and allies in Taiwan. I hope you will join me in supporting strong democracy in the world by supporting Taiwan's bid for membership to the United Nations.

HONORING WOODROW SKAFF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Woodrow "Woody" Skaff on his 90th birthday. Woodrow turned 90 on August 26th. A celebration hosted by the University of Michigan-Flint is being held on September 12th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Woody's father came to the United States in 1906. He settled in Flint and married Martha VanDemark. They started a carpet business and had five children. Woody began working in the family business during the 1930s. After World War II, his two brothers, Don and Jack, joined Woody and the three sons expanded their father's business to include furniture. The brothers continued to grow the business and operated 6 different stores. By the 1970s the third generation became involved when Woody's oldest son, George, became involved. The business continues today to be a vibrant family run enterprise built on the cornerstone of respect and service to the customer and community.

Even after retirement, Woody Skaff still maintains this respect for the community. He is involved in numerous organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint, Young Life—Christian Camp, Crossroads, the YWCA, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, First Presbyterian Church, the Flint Institute of Music, the Flint Institute of Art and the Cultural Center. Woody has funded a scholarship program at the University of Michigan-Flint and over 30 students have benefited from his generosity.

Madam Speaker please join me in congratulating Woodrow Skaff for 90 years of living his Christian faith by loving, caring and helping others. He has made a significant contribution to the Flint community through his generosity and his example. I wish him the best in the coming year and many, many more.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PAUL E. GILLMOR, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American and a member of this House. PAUL E. GILLMOR was a veteran, lawyer, businessman, and Member of Congress from Ohio.

Congressman GILLMOR, who died on Wednesday, September 5, 2007, was a respected member of this body and respected by all who knew him. He was actually a legislator's legislator. He was known often to put aside partisan politics and reach across the aisle to legislate in a bipartisan manner for the best interests of the American people.

In 1961 he received a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. Although

he was a lifelong Buckeye, PAUL GILLMOR received a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. From 1965 to 1996, he served his country in the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate, attaining the rank of captain. He married Karen Lako, who also served in the Ohio Senate, in 1983. He had five children: daughters Linda and Julie and sons Paul and twins Adam and Connor.

Before he came to Capitol Hill in 1988, he spent 22 years in the Ohio statehouse where he became the senate president for three terms. He got to know the people, because half of this work is getting to know the people. His presence will be greatly missed and we all mourn his loss and extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

More interested in policy than in seeking the limelight, PAUL GILLMOR focused his time here in the House squarely on the needs of his constituents. On the Energy and Commerce Committee, he was deeply involved in consumer issues, including protecting consumers from unfair credit report practices. He also worked to preserve our history by supporting and improving sites honoring our Nation's Presidents.

PAUL GILLMOR was unanimously elected in 2006 by representatives of the 26 NATO countries to serve as Vice President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. As vice president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Congressman GILLMOR was the highest ranking American in this highly esteemed international organization.

Most recently, Ohio has been plagued by scandals arising from predatory lending, and Representative GILLMOR was a leader in trying to help families and communities that had been subject to predatory lending, pulling together the Ohio delegation to identify ways we can impact our neighborhoods and support laws that could impact families that had been subject to predatory lending.

Mr. Speaker, a dear colleague has fallen but he will not be forgotten. We are all saddened by our loss but we are happy to have served with him. Our prayers and condolences go out to his widow Karen, his five children, and to thousands of his friends around the Nation. He touched so many lives during his career in politics, and he will truly be missed by me and the American people.

CELEBRATING THE INSTALLATION OF DR. SHARON K. HAHNS AS PRESIDENT OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Sharon K. Hahns on her official installation as President of Northeastern Illinois University.

Located in Illinois' 5th Congressional District, Northeastern Illinois University serves over 12,000 students from the Chicago metropolitan area, providing students with an affordable, high-quality academic experience. NEIU has a population that is richly diverse in ethnicity, culture, age and language. The institution today offers over 80 undergraduate and graduate majors, and has the largest teacher